

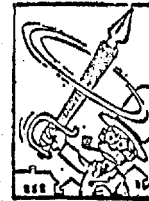
Front Page	Editor Page	Other Page
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Open forum

CIA report



To the Editor:

Concerning the first part of the six-part CIA series, the editors of the Ledger-Star are to be commended for helping to reveal to us, the public, "constructive" comments about our nation's CIA.

It is unfortunate that by virtue of its policy of silence to all agency-directed criticisms, the CIA has become a release and/or scapegoat for everything from the blunders of others to tales of sheer fantasy.

I believe that it is important that we all realize and appreciate that there is, in fact, intelligence within our agency of intelligence; and that there are agencies, within our government, that can and should be respected, rather than feared and despised.

Our government and its agencies are so often criticized, so seldom genuinely praised, that the public tends to become diseased with the notion that bad, possibly corrupt, government is acceptable and natural rather than unacceptable and rare.

A "balance" of criticism and praise is necessary: Criticism to keep our government strong and alert and praise to keep our agencies and leaders in the proper perspective, one of respect.

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